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HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JULY 1992

This, our third report, summarizes forest pest conditions in the Maritimes as they appeared at the end of July, 1992.

Weather continues to significantly hamper insect development and, at the same time, there is considerably more than the usual variability between locales. Lots of rainfall and below normal temperatures have not only affected insects but have greatly hindered the **spruce budworm** aerial survey effort in New Brunswick. Heavy rains and, at some locations, hail have removed the typical redness caused by budworm defoliation which in turn has made the separation of defoliation into damage classes very difficult. Defoliations is restricted to areas in northern New Brunswick. No further information is available at this time. In Prince Edward Island, more defoliation was found on white spruce than last year in Kings and Queens counties, averaging in the moderate category. No defoliation was found in Nova Scotia.

Hemlock looper larvae have been found in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in areas of previously recorded defoliation: near Mount Elizabeth, Northumberland Co., several areas in Charlotte Co., most noticeably on Deer Island, N.B. and in southern Halifax Co., N.S, along the eastern shore. At this point, it is difficult to predict the extent of damage since the majority of feeding is yet to come, however, the highest number of larvae have been found in areas of previous defoliation in southern Halifax Co. Considerable defoliation is expected in these areas.

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Gypsy moth traps should now be in place throughout the region. Daily observation traps, at several locations in New Brunswick and southwestern Nova Scotia, had catches of 10-15 moths on July 21. A change in weather pattern coincides with this catch episode. All moths are considered blow-ins from parts west of us in the northeastern United States. Early and mid-instar larvae were found as late as July 17, making it very unlikely that local emergences could be any earlier than August 1. Recent larval finds were made at Mohannes, Charlotte Co., N.B., and Shelburne, Shelburne Co.; Bear River, Digby Co.; Bridgetown, Annapolis Co.; New Minas, Port Williams, and Canning, Kings Co., N.S. A single egg mass, believed to have hatched this year, was found on a travel trailer, purchased in the United States, in Yarmouth, Yarmouth Co., N.S. No larvae were found in the immediate area. No noticeable defoliation has been found at any location in the region.

Elm leafminer has caused moderate and severe browning of elm in Bridgetown, Annapolis Co.; Truro, Colchester Co.; Halifax, Halifax Co.; and Sydney, Cape Breton Co., N.S. Damage is less severe than last year, most often light and moderate browning on exotic elms in Charlottetown and York, Queens Co., and Summerside, Prince Co., P.E.I.

Spruce bark beetle damage, observed during aerial surveys in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, is up overall in eastern Nova Scotia and less common in Prince Edward Island. New damage is most common along the northeast coast of Pictou Co. and northern areas of Antigonish Co., N.S.

Other forest pests of note: **Dutch elm disease**-infected trees are showing the typical symptoms of wilting and browning of foliage, generally on young trees in areas where it has been extant for a number of years; **yellow witches' broom** on dead and dying spruce at several coastal locations, especially Antigonish, Guysborough, Victoria, and Inverness counties, N.S.; **cherry blight** found throughout New Brunswick, but most severe in Carleton, Victoria, and Northumberland counties, damage levels are up in eastern Nova Scotia, most notable in Victoria Co.; **white pine weevil** is very common in several New Brunswick counties, often more than 50% of young trees showing the typical crooked top leader; **yellowheaded spruce sawfly** severely defoliated pockets of a few trees each near Hammondvale, Kings Co., N.B.; **maple leafroller** severely damaged about 2 ha of mature sugar maple at Lower Queensbury, York Co., N.B.; and **elm leaf beetle** has caused moderate and severe leaf browning of many elm trees in Fredericton, York Co., N.B.

J.E. Hurley and L.P. Magasi
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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